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Achieving greater Accountability,
Cost Savings and Transparency

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Harvard Endorses Illinois' Progress at National Conference

Illinois is sharing with other governments the lessons we've learned in our efforts to increase accountability, enhance transparency and produce cost savings by successfully consolidating procurement, IT, fleet management and other administrative functions.

Most recently, CMS Director Paul Campbell was invited to participate in a workshop called "Shared Services in the Public Sector" at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Why was CMS asked to present at a national conference? As Harvard University Professor Jerry Mechling noted:

"When you get back to basics on making government efficient and effective, you need to seriously take advantage of growing economies of scale in 'shared services' — the classic financial management, human resources, fleet management, and other often back-office functions that are too often haphazardly provided by each department operating on its own.

Reforms in shared services can work wonders and Illinois — especially through the work of Central Management Services — has been a leader in the field."

During his presentation, Director Campbell discussed the challenges to successfully introducing and implementing a shared services organization in a state government. He also noted advantages such as the more than \$529 million that the State of Illinois saved over the last two years through the consolidation of administrative functions and other efficiency initiatives.

This national platform signified that — although many improvements are needed to complete the State's shared services organization — Illinois is seen as a leader nationwide in this government business trend.

Also in March, CMS hosted a workshop sponsored by *Government Procurement Journal* called "Measuring and Sustaining Government Efficiency" — and shared with 14 state and local governments the lessons that Illinois learned through its efficiency initiatives.



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*Professor Jerry Mechling
Kennedy School of
Government
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